

House of Commons, is unnecessary; *secondly*, to the allotting a portion of the public money to institutions, which the hand of charity would willingly support; and, *thirdly*, I most decidedly object to the assumption, with, such *naivete* put forth in the above report, that they, adopting a personification, dying, "wisdom would die with them." Perhaps the Board of the National Vaccine Institution may have the kindness (we cannot *compel* them, for these government institutions hold a very unapproachable responsibility), in proof that the sum allotted does not exceed the benefit gained, to show how the 2500*l*/year are distributed. And, Sir, begging you and all your readers to believe, that nothing but a conviction that the part quoted from the report did not express the *real* fact, would have induced me to appear before the public as affording this statement, and assuring you that I rejoice in every rationally, usefully, and moderately-conducted means, by which the cause of vaccination is promoted, I subscribe myself yours, in well-wishing,

JOHN EPPS, M.D.,

Director of the Royal Jennerian and
London Vaccine Institutions.

Royal Jennerian Society,
Union Court, Holborn Hill, June 4, 1831.

REMARKS

ON THE LATE TRIALS OF LONG THE QUACK FOR MANSLAUGHTER, AND ON THE PROBABLE CAUSES WHICH INFLUENCED THE JURY IN RETURNING A VERDICT OF ACQUITTAL IN THE CASE OF MRS. LLOYD.

By JAMES M'CABE, M.D., Chellenham.

I THINK it was Dean Swift who said that no one who has not had a medical or a legal education professes to understand medicine or law, but that every one professes to understand theology, oftentimes without having had any education whatever. The Dean was a shrewd observer of human nature, but in this he appears to have been mistaken, as the late trials of Mr. St. John Long for manslaughter show, that the province of medicine, as well as of theology, is sometimes invaded by unqualified poachers, who, having no interest in preserving the game, bring it down right and left, and generally succeed best with the fattest of the species, which, from their sleek rotundity and obtuseness of animal instinct, are the last to perceive the danger.

When we consider that two respectable juries, before which Mr. Long has already been tried for manslaughter, have brought

in verdicts diametrically opposite in cases under all circumstances apparently similar—that he was found guilty of manslaughter in the case of Miss Cashin, and acquitted in the case of Mrs. Lloyd, although the general evidence and the medical opinions respecting the cause of death were as clear and as strong in the one case as in the other—it becomes a subject, not only of curious, but of useful inquiry, as to what may have been the probable cause of this apparent uncertainty and inconsistency in the trial by jury. This inquiry, too, becomes the more necessary, when we consider how short the time that intervened between the death of Miss Cashin and that of Mrs. Lloyd. Mr. Long, no doubt, hopes, like other medical practitioners, for an increase in his practice, and should that increase be attended with a corresponding increase of the ratio of mortality, other juries may, ere long, be called upon to decide in similar cases.

During the inquest held on the body of Miss Cashin, it came out in evidence that several persons, respectable from their rank and station in society, had been under the care of a Mr. St. John Long for the treatment of diseases, real or imaginary; that this Mr. Long was an illiterate person, a painter by trade, and had never received any medical education. All this appeared most extraordinary, but the evidence given by some of the witnesses (to a part of which I shall presently allude) must have excited general surprise. There is not, perhaps, any necessary connexion between rank or wealth and intellect; but common sense only would appear to have been necessary to have enabled them to see through the gross deceptions and delusions by which their credulity had been abused. One gentleman having been "rubbed" on the forehead and chest with a liniment by Mr. Long, was assured by that person that all was right thereabouts—that his head was good and his lungs sound—in fact, that he was qualified to generate ideas and enunciate propositions in his place in parliament; for he was a member of that honourable House, and, as such, Mr. Long thought it right to proceed in his case with some show of reasoning. He therefore told him, that had any-thing been unsound in the organs contained in those regions to which he had made his application, the liniment would have occasioned him great pain, and would ultimately have removed the peccant matter; but as it had produced no effect whatever, he could vouch for his phrenological sanity and stentorian capability.

This must have been an exceedingly agreeable opinion for a patient, who was a candidate for legislative distinction and oratorical fame. But Mr. Long, from an intuitive perception of character, saw it was

necessary to find disease somewhere. He accordingly requested permission to apply his discriminating liniment "a posteriore," which, being granted, he dabbed him directly between the shoulders, and the writhings and contortions of body which instantly followed the application of the liniment in that quarter, sufficiently satisfied the parties that they had found out the seat of his disease. Nor Gall nor Spurzheim has indicated what organ could have been influenced by a liniment dabbed between the shoulders. In fact, the part is below the boundaries of their phrenological chart. It is the region of corporal punishment among refractory soldiers, and is the part to which the syllogistic reasoning of the cart-whip is applied among negroes in the West Indies. From this, it would appear to be considered a part of great sensibility, and was, therefore, probably chosen by Mr. Long to enforce conviction, through the medium of sensation. In the last number of the *Quarterly Review* (Feb. 1831), there is an oriental mode of expressing the *reductio ad absurdum*, introduced in an extract from a pamphlet by Col. Matthew Stewart. It appears that when a proposition is rather startling, or it is intended to throw ridicule on a political dilemma, the Hindoo politicians say, "It is like a man attempting to walk on his head, and think with his feet." So, in this case, Mr. St. John Long having proved the integrity of the intellectual functions by the application of his discriminating liniment to the forehead, the region of the organs of comparison and causation, persuaded his patient, notwithstanding, to judge of his (Mr. Long's) medical acquirements by reasoning "a posteriore."

To return from ridicule to reasoning, and to analyze the above evidence by the rules of common sense, I would ask what necessary connexion is there between producing pain and destruction of the soft parts on the surface of the body, and the cure of diseases in the lungs or elsewhere? If it were so, burns and scalds would be an effectual remedy for pulmonary and other diseases. Counter-irritation, by blisters, setons, &c., has been always in use among medical practitioners as a remedial measure in organic diseases; but the actual or potential cautery—that is, a red-hot iron or a burning liniment, such as Mr. St. John Long's, was confined to the practice of the veterinary art; and it remained for Mr. Long to transfer the application of the potential cautery from the legs of spavined horses, to the backs and breasts of modest and delicate females.

The principal ingredient, in what is called in surgery the "potential cautery," is quick lime, and this, no doubt, is the

chief ingredient in Mr. Long's burning liniment. Quick lime applied to the surface of the body excites inflammation, and rapidly destroys the vitality of the vessels of the part to which it is applied; and if the application be made near to the centre of the system, and near the vital organs, it is likely to occasion a fatal constitutional disturbance, as it did in the unfortunate cases of Miss Cashin and Mrs. Lloyd. The power of discrimination attributed to his liniment by Mr. Long—that is, of affecting only diseased parts, and which he appears to have succeeded in persuading his patients to believe, is one of the most monstrous outrages on common sense that ever has been attempted. To effect this required some ingenuity on his part, but an uncommon degree of obtuseness and credulity on the part of his patients.

That any caustic liniment, or any application which, when applied to the back, produced inflammation and vesication of the skin, would have produced the same effect when applied to the breast or forehead, is so clear and so self-evident, that it would almost be an insult to common sense to attempt to prove it. It was by a little dexterous sleight of hand, then, that Mr. Long imposed on the credulity of his patients on this point. In the case of the gentleman to whose evidence I before alluded, it was not without a motive that Mr. Long proposed to make a trial of his liniment on his back, having first essayed his breast and forehead. There is no person that reads over the evidence with attention, but must see that when his back was turned, the liniment was changed, and that the writhings and contortions of the body which followed the "rubbing between the shoulders," were occasioned by the same milk-and-water lotion with which the sanity of his head and the efficiency of his lungs had before been proved. Of the ladies who gave evidence on the trials, as of all ladies, I would willingly speak with due respect; truth, however, requires it to be known, that the proportion of the fair sex who were followers and believers in the infallibility of Mr. Long's "rubbing," greatly exceeded that of the credulous lords of the creation. That it was so, is an undisputed fact. Why it was so, can only be a subject of philosophical speculation,—whether it was that the novelty of the remedy pleased them, or that agreeable sensations and pleasing associations are sometimes produced by remedial manipulations—as galvanic power is evolved by metallic contacts—or whether it was pure philanthropy, or the desire of giving pleasure to others; for who, without feelings of pleasure, could contemplate the bust of a beautiful female, white as statuary marble, and warm and heaving with life and soft-

ness, in a state of preparation for "rubbing" "behind the screen* in the practice room?"

At the time that the atrocious Thurtell was about to suffer the just judgment of the law for the commission of a murder unexampled in point of atrocity, the public press, not much to the credit of its taste, teemed with many and minute particulars respecting him, such as his bold and resolute bearing, his well-proportioned figure, his great physical strength, and the configuration of his head, which, it was said, clearly evinced the full development of all the organs, until at length the murderer was elevated into a hero, and excited the sympathy of several sensitive ladies. One of these, after poring for hours over these mawkish details, in which she appeared to be totally absorbed, suddenly exclaimed, "I am in love with the man." The circle of friends with which she was surrounded at the time, as may well be supposed, were greatly surprised at this impassioned burst of feeling, and one of them immediately observed, "There is no accounting for tastes, and some may be fond of garbage."

To charge to the account of the fair sex generally, the mawkish and depraved tastes of a few individuals of it, would be as unphilosophical as it would be unjust; and there were probably but few after all, among the ladies, who really loved Thurtell, or took pleasure in Mr. St. John Long's "rubbing." Horace says,

*"Segnius irritant animos demissa per aurem
Quam quæ sunt oculis subjecta fidelibus."*

Which is thus translated by Mr. Francis :

*"What we hear,
With weaker passion will affect the heart,
Than when the faithful eye beholds the part."*

This observation of the poet does not always hold good when applied to the fair sex, who are generally more readily influenced through the medium of the ear, and provided even an infamous notoriety be acquired by an individual, whether he be a robber or a quack doctor, an assassin or a homicide, with some he is sure to become an object of interest.

The notoriety which Mr. Long had obtained by the inquest on Miss Cashin, and his subsequent trial and conviction for manslaughter, instead of diminishing, appears to have increased the number of his patients. The case was, however, now different from what it had been before his trial and conviction, as the consequences of his system of treatment were thus made known to the public; and whosoever should afterwards subject themselves to the same risk, incurred a danger of which they were aware. It was under these circumstances that Mrs. Lloyd became Mr. Long's patient. The intimacy

which took place between Captain Lloyd and Mr. Long, originated (as it appears by the evidence) at the inquest on Miss Cashin, or at his trial; so that when Mrs. Lloyd placed herself under Mr. Long's care, it was with the full knowledge on her own part, and on the part of her husband, of the melancholy result of his system of treatment in the case of Miss Cashin!

It was this view of the subject which probably influenced the jury in returning a verdict of acquittal in the case of Mrs. Lloyd. An English jury is constitutionally jealous of the liberty of the subject, and to prevent gentlemen or ladies from being cured of their diseases in any way they please, they thought would be an infringement of that liberty. The exercise of this privilege, however, implies free agency, and consequent responsibility; and when a man, or a woman either, is at liberty to be "rubbed" or not, with Mr. St. John Long's liniment, they must bear the responsibility of their own decision. Were Mr. Long indeed to persuade individuals who were considered in law "*non compotes mentis*" to allow themselves to be "rubbed out," and the application of the liniment, and the death of the patient, were afterwards to follow, as cause and effect, then a jury would find him guilty of manslaughter, because responsibility must rest somewhere; and as such persons cannot be responsible for their own acquiescence, Mr. Long would be made to bear the burden of his own iniquity. In all other cases, as the law on this subject is at present interpreted by the judges, he may practise, and even slay, with perfect impunity. The only precaution necessary to ensure his own safety, being to inquire, before applying his liniment, whether the party intended to be rubbed, "be under the guardianship of the Lord Chancellor."

AN "EXCLUSIVE" DUB NOT FAR FROM
STAFFORD.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—The London "hole-and-corner system" has been so ably exposed by THE LANCET, that I am tempted to ask the use of that instrument for the benefit of a public institution not a hundred miles from Stafford, where an aristocratic doctor lately tacked to the establishment boldly proclaimed himself an "exclusive," and prohibited the senior pupil of the infirmary being present at a rare operation (rare in this part of the world) on the score of its indelicacy! &c. The case was one of excrescences on the nymphæ and clitoris, and

* See the evidence of some of the young ladies.